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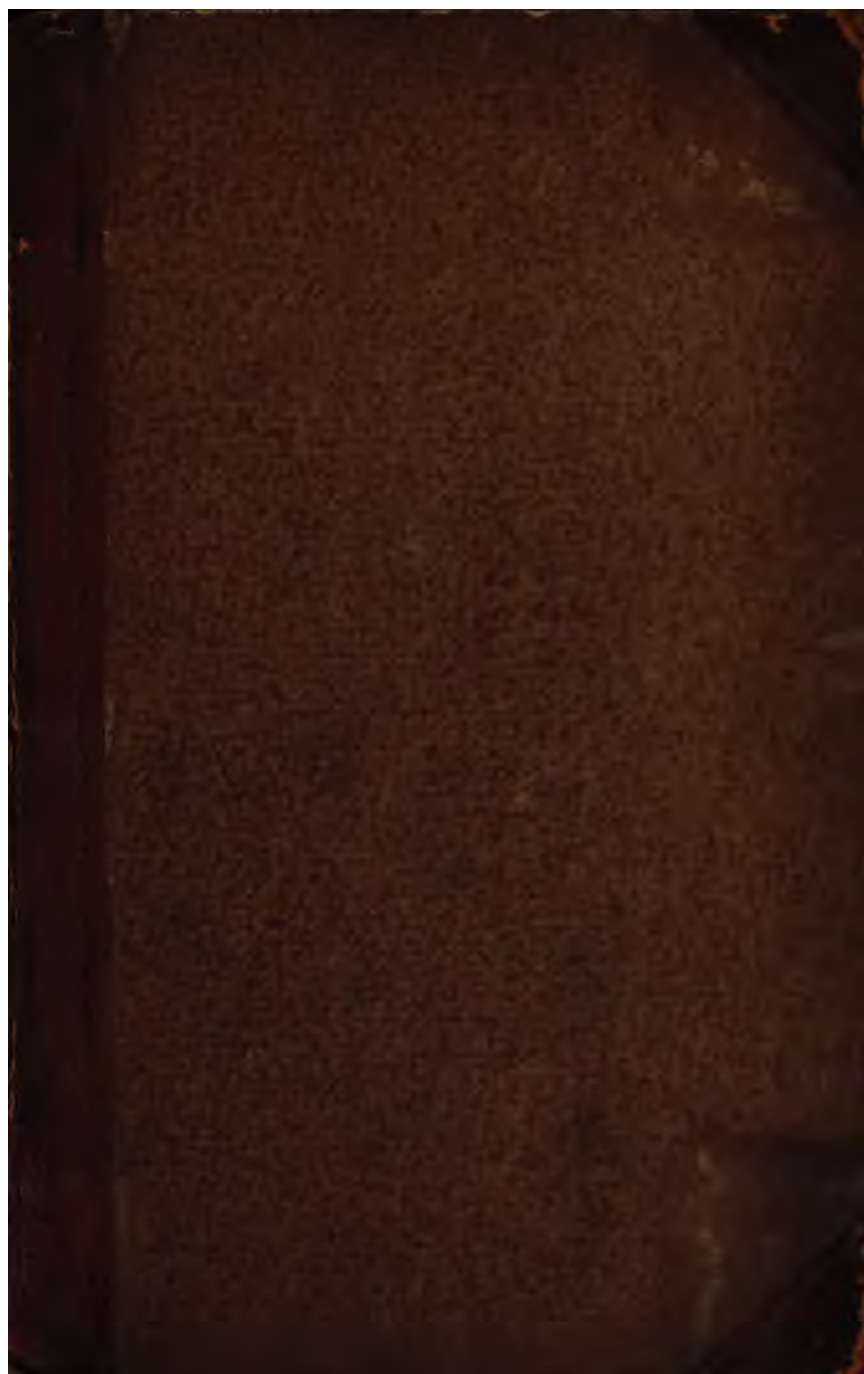
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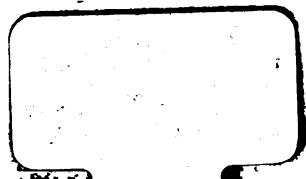
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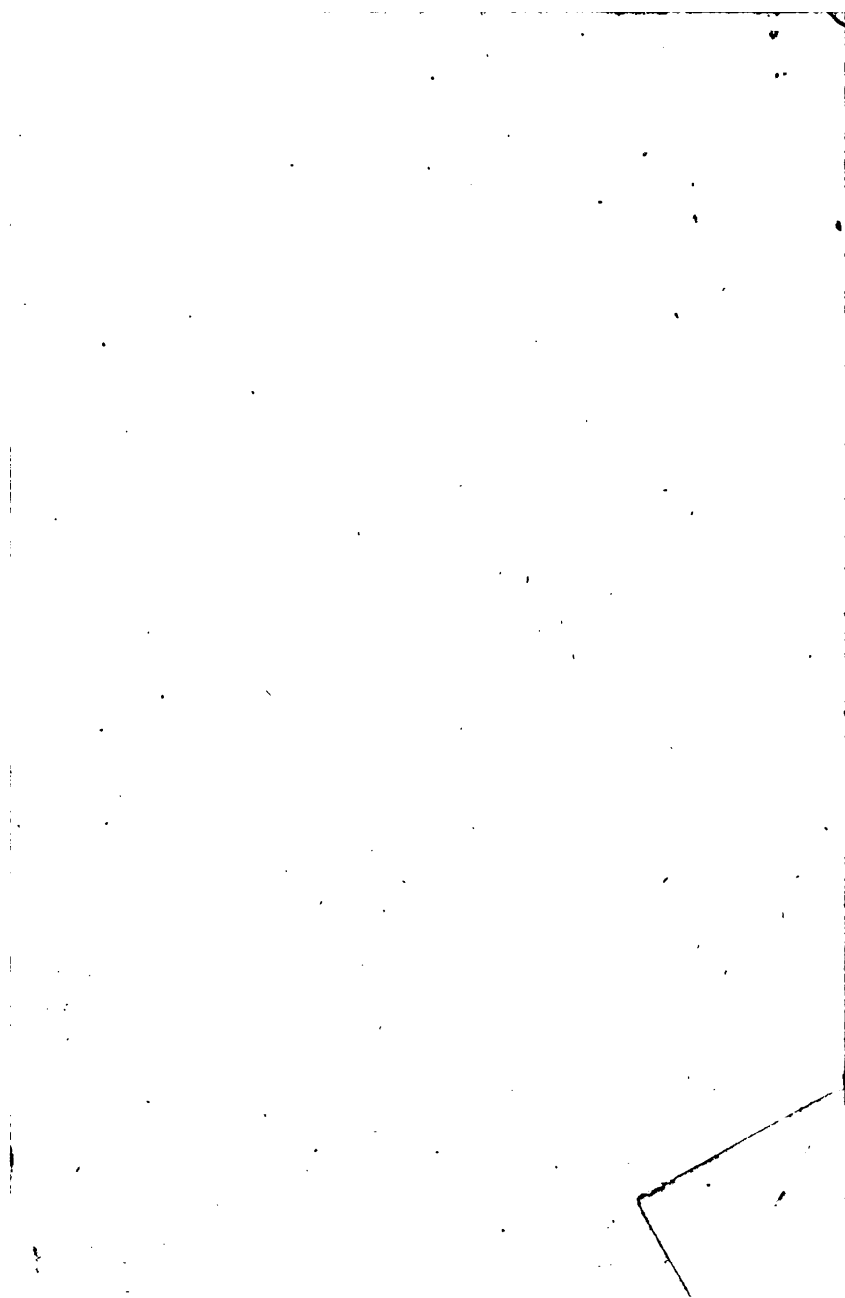
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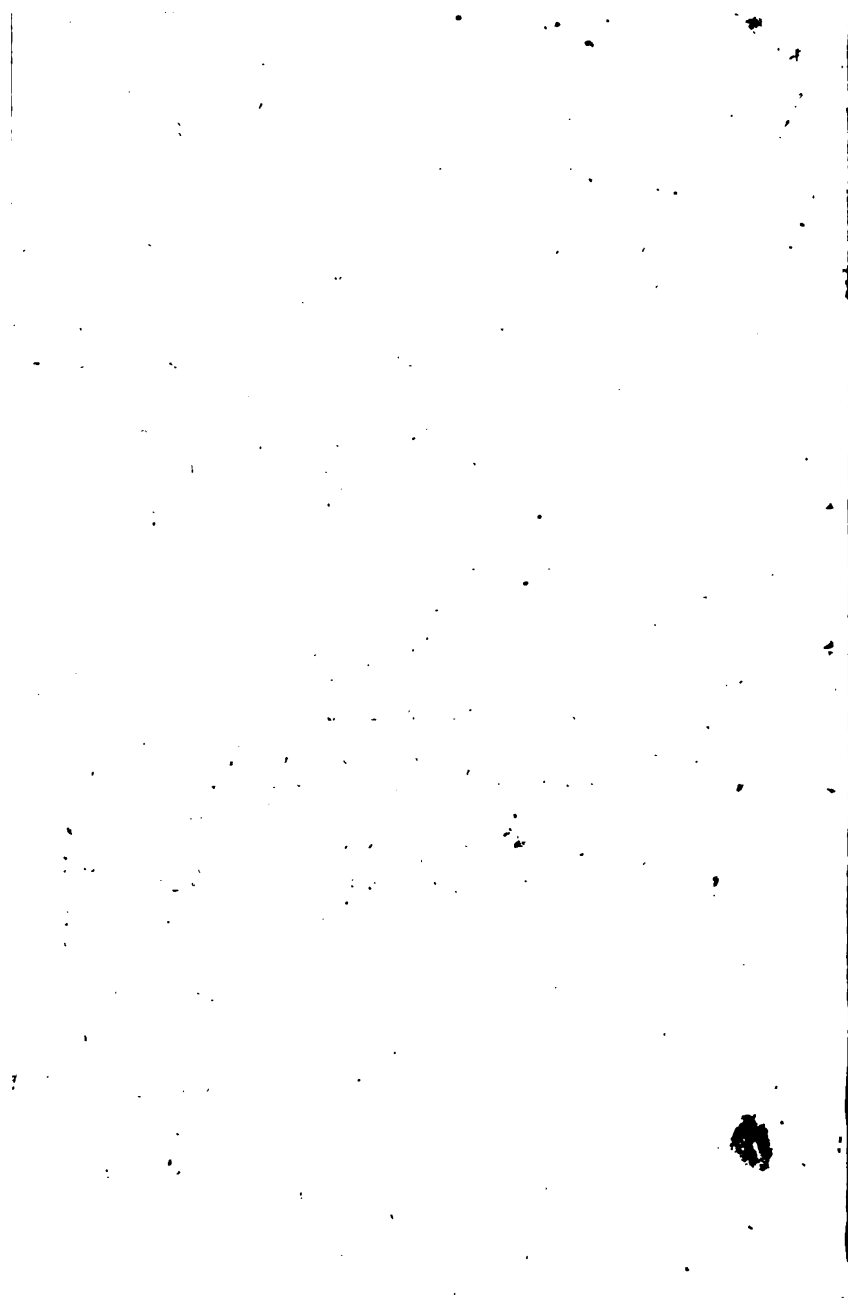






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“ Nihil humani a me alienum puto.”

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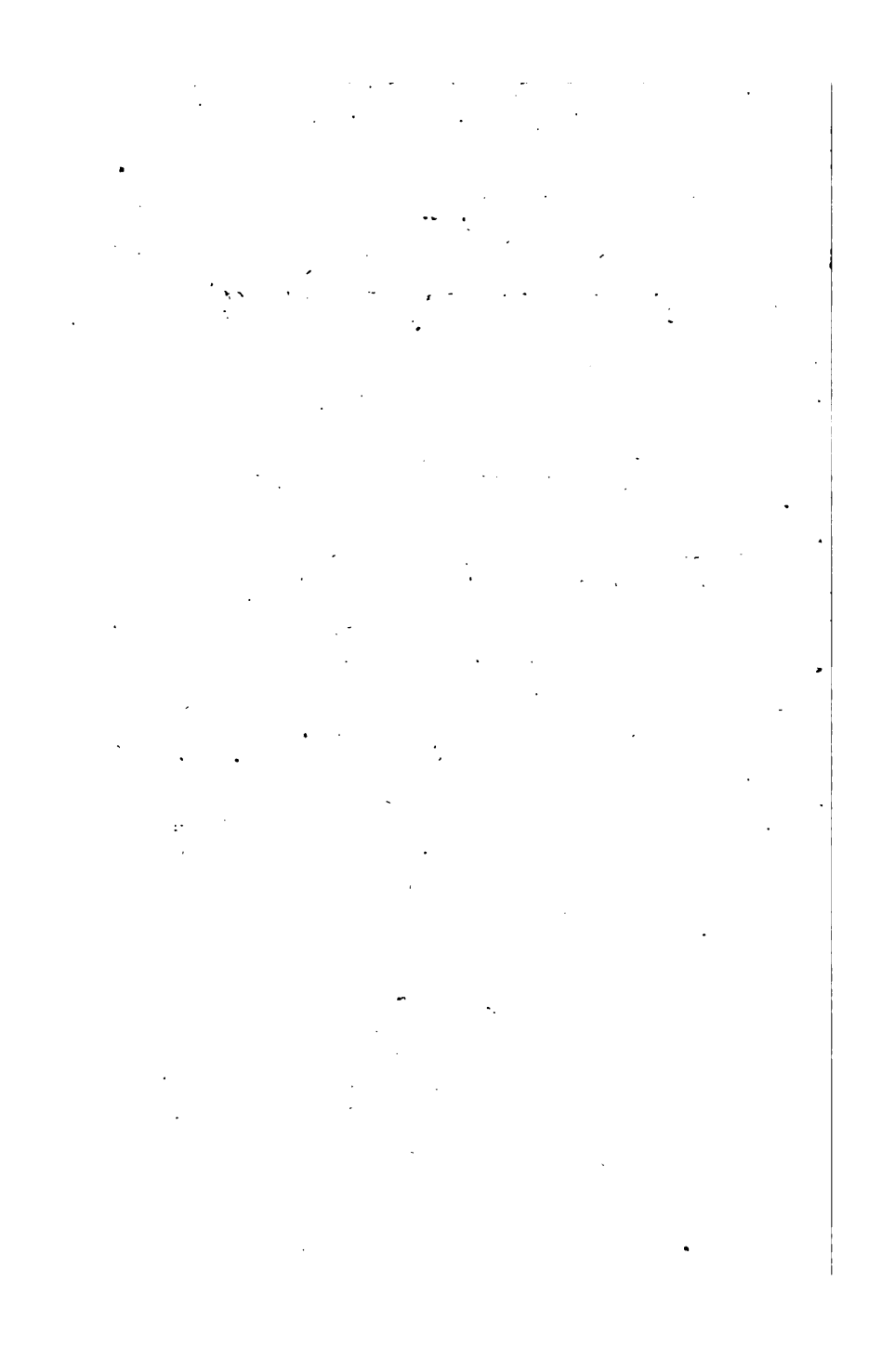


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PRINTED IN THE YEAR 1792.

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AN ADDRESS  
TO HER ROYAL HIGHNESS  
THE DUTCHESS OF YORK,  
AGAINST THE  
USE OF SUGAR.

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*May it please your Royal Highness!*

AN Individual, in whose breast the feelings of sympathy with distress are strong, and who thinks it his duty to regard and cherish them, presumes to address your Royal Highness, and, with all proper respect, to request your attention to a subject the most interesting to every friend of mankind. The business which I am going to lay before you, it is in your power most essentially to serve. The expence which you are solicited to incur, is the sacrifice of a trifling gratification,

tion, while the service you will render, will reflect the brightest lustre on your high birth.

It is to the cause of Humanity trampled upon and outraged, in a degree that has no parallel in ancient or modern annals, by those who deal in and who encourage the African Slave Trade, that your Royal Highness is entreated to lend your powerful aid and support.

To the nature of this nefarious trade your Royal Highness can be no stranger. You must have frequently heard the dreadful particulars of it; and the intelligence has, I doubt not, diffused the thickest gloom through the scene in which you move, enlivened, as it otherwise is, by all that is gay and chearful. The dismal tale must have caused in your tender bosom a chill, which froze as it were the current of the soul, and must have stunned every finer feeling of the breast.

You have been informed, that, in consequence of this infamous traffic, a part of the continent of Africa, several thousand miles in extent, is made a scene of continual warfare and bloodshed: You have been informed of the numbers of persons that are kidnapped by Europeans, and by African natives, at the instigation of Europeans, in order to be sold for slaves: You have  
been

been informed, how the African Princes, set to work by bribes from those who disgrace the name of Britons, use all kinds of violence and fraud to procure the number of human beings which the slave merchants propose to buy of them: You must have heard that these Princes employ persons to inveigle their subjects to commit crimes, in order that a pretence may be afforded to condemn them for slavery: You must have been told that the least shadow of evidence, and the faintest semblance of a crime, are sure to subject the accused to this punishment, a punishment in many cases more dreadful than death: You know, that besides this method, these wicked tyrants, tempted by the reward offered by the English merchant, availing themselves of the darkness of night, set fire to whole villages and towns in their own dominions: In these conflagrations, you must have heard, numbers of unsuspecting persons miserably perish, while those who escape are seized upon by the Prince and his train, and sold to slavery. Your Royal Highness will readily imagine, how many thousands of infants, in consequence of the practices above recited, bemoan the want of parental tenderness; how many fond parents, with aching hearts, bewail the loss of their hopeful offspring: what must be the pangs of the loving pair just joined in sacred wedlock, for ever separated; of affectionate brothers and sisters, for ever rent from each other?

Whoever

Whoever are the immediate instruments of this cruelty and misery, they are set to work by Europeans. On Europeans then the guilt of the whole of this iniquity rests!

Consistent with the manner in which the market is supplied, is the treatment of the commodity after it is brought on board. In the usage which the living human cargo experiences, there is every thing to shock humanity and decency. I will not tire your Royal Highness by calling to your recollection the manner in which they are stowed and fed. *In the abstract of the evidence on the Slave Trade, before the House of Commons, printed for Phillips, in George-Yard,* your Royal Highness may see a drawing, which will convey an idea of this horrid situation of human beings more just than any which words can express. In the passage, owing to the several inconveniences of close confinement, one-fifth of the slaves usually die.\* When landed in our plantations, your Royal Highness will remember to have heard, that they are carried to market like cattle, and examined naked; that when they have been sold, the purchaser has his name, or that of the

\* I would not conceal from my readers, that in consequence of the attention of late excited to this subject, the owners of the slave ships have been obliged to allow more room for their cargo.

company

company to which he belongs, imprinted on their breasts by red-hot iron. They are then sent to the estates of the person for whom they are bought. In the sale no regard is had to the separation of the most intimate and close connections. Parents and children, husbands and wives, are without the least consideration for ever detached from each other, sent to places remotely distant, and never more hear or see any thing of each other. If, in the view of their last farewell, they continue in fond caresses longer than suits the slave-driver, the fond pair, the parent and the child, are separated by the lash of the unfeeling wretch. The time of seasoning, or the period in which they are considered as being inured properly for their intended labour, proves fatal to one-third of the slaves imported. In most estates in the English plantations, the plan adopted by the managers of those estates is, to procure, by means of the whip, as much labour as possible from the slaves, with the least allowance of food and rest. A strong healthy negro will live eight or nine years under this savage treatment. The greater quantity of work done by this method of wearing out the slaves, more than compensates for the expence of purchasing fresh ones. And hence, as being more gainful to the proprietor, it is without the least scruple very generally practised.

I cannot

I cannot suppose there exists a female, possessing a heart of sensibility, who can consider at length the detail of the facts which I have now hinted at, without many a deep sigh, without many an earnest wish, that the world may be fairly rid of a traffic which involves in it such complicated villany; without feeling the deepest anxiety that the guilt of it may no longer belong to the land of her nativity, or the country of her constant residence. The friends of humanity may then confidently expect, that your Royal Highness will profess yourself an open enemy to this traffic, and that you will throw the weight of your influence in favour of its abolition.

It has been mentioned, to your Royal Highness's peculiar honour, that at *Berlin* you were the friend of the poor, that your acts of beneficence were such as required exertion, and that they were conducted with judgment. I cannot once suppose that your Royal Highness will suffer the hurry and bustle of the British Court to divert your attention from similar objects in this country, which every person who has the feeling of benevolence, and who reflects, knows, alas! to be but too numerous. Your Royal Highness is, I am confident, too well aware that it is this attention, attention to acts of beneficence, that reflects the truest honour upon any character, to permit this effect to take place.

place. And, I trust, that honours of this nature, the most exalted, await your Royal Highness in this distinguished island, which rejoices in having you for an inhabitant.

Your Royal Highness has most probably been informed, that, during the last session of Parliament, application was made to the House of Commons to put an end to the African Slave Trade; that the application was rejected; that the House suffered itself so far to be influenced by persons concerned in this iniquitous commerce, as to sanction, for a time at least, a trade which is founded on rapine, murder, and robbery.

By this sad repulse, the friends of humanity were grievously cast down. They were much relieved by a happy thought, which was brought forwards in a form that made it get easy admittance into the minds of persons feeling as they did. While they lamented the guilt under which the nation lay in consequence of this commerce, a scheme was set on foot, by which they might, as individuals, escape having any share in it. In a pamphlet, entitled "*An Address to the People of Great-Britain, on the utility of refraining from the use of West-India Sugar and Rum,*" of which, some time ago, thirty-five thousand had been sold and distributed;



tributed; it was proposed, that as the slavery of the negroes was owing to the cultivation of Sugar, that all the enemies of this slavery, all those who wished its abolition, should altogether abstain from the use of that commodity, till such time as effectual measures should be taken to prevent the farther importation of slaves, and proper methods be adopted to procure their freedom for those who are in our plantations.

In adopting this measure, our aim was not so much the abolition of the slave trade, as the discharge of our duty. That this cause would of itself be sufficient to produce the effect, in a length of time, a succession of ages perhaps, we were ready to admit. We however hoped, that, in the mean while, methods more speedy in their operation would be adopted to bring about this desirable end. Most of us, though not all, laid aside the use of sugar, because we thought it was what a regard to right required of us; because we were persuaded that the contrary practice was wrong, morally wrong, in persons who judged of the matter as we did.

The reasoning on which we grounded our conduct was briefly this: "The traffic in slaves forms a series of transactions, more marked by rapine and cruelty than any other which history records. For what purpose

pose then is this traffic carried on, which, on one hand, produces such a sum of misery; and, on the other, such an accumulation of guilt? To cultivate our West-India plantations. And why are our plantations cultivated? To supply the European market with sugar. And why is sugar brought into the European market? Because we buy and consume it. It is then the buyer and consumer who form the first spring which sets in action the several engines of injustice and oppression, which annually destroy several hundred thousands of our fellow-creatures. These engines are more *immediately* directed by the Slave Merchant and the West-Indian purchaser, and more *remotely* by the consumer; both are parties in the crime. In this manner it is, that we, unthinkingly, sacrifice whole crowds of human beings every year to a paltry gratification. When we considered the matter in this light, your Royal Highness will not wonder, that most of us resolved no longer to be partakers of this drug, and that each individual of us would have abstained from it, had he been certain of no one person living following his example.

We were agreeably surprized when we found that this scheme was no sooner divulged abroad, than great numbers most cheerfully came into it. Never, in so short a time, did a practice so novel, and which re-

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quired

quired a degree of self-denial, spread so rapidly. Six months, I believe I may say five, have not yet expired, since the public have been called upon to lay aside the use of sugar; and yet, in the kingdom at large, the number of those who have complied with the proposal is reckoned considerably to exceed one hundred thousand. We never conceived that our example would so soon have been thus generally followed. The circumstance, as being the more unexpected, has given us the more exquisite pleasure. It has incited us to redouble our zeal in endeavouring to bring over every friend of humanity, to a practice which his unbiassed judgment must approve, which must well accord with his best feelings, and be productive of pleasing reflections. It is at the head of this body of persons, whose motives all must respect, whose resolution all must applaud, and whose object all must approve, that you are requested to place yourself;—a body not distinguished by this or that opinion, this or that unmeaning practice, not called after the name of this or that leader; but a set of persons, who would be distinguished as the friends and advocates of humanity, who cherish sympathy for, and who would fly to the assistance of suffering man, whatever the colour of his skin, the form of his features, the mode of his religion, or the state of his manners; who believe that individuals enjoy most happiness when the general pulse beats highest; who  
conceive

conceive it to be a law of nature, that individual felicity keeps a fixed pace with the well-being of the aggregate of the species. Such is the practice, and such is the creed of the persons, who approach your Royal Highness, to request you would enroll yourself among their number.

Your Royal Highness is well aware, that in proportion as the sphere in which you move is more elevated, so much the more strong are the claims which distress has upon your commiseration. You are not one of those who think that it becomes not high rank to regard the cries of the oppressed, or to lend a hand to suffering innocence. When you behold us crowd to feast our eyes with the sight of your state and grandeur, the splendour which encircles your Royal Person only charms us, and increases our esteem for you, because we have been told, and we cheerfully give credit to the intelligence, that it dignifies a feeling heart, a benevolent happy mind,—a mind formed to pity, and ever desirous to remove distress; disposed to rejoice in, and to promote the happiness of all. Let it be your Royal Highness's ambition to shine forth in the bright lustre of genuine worth! May you be rich in those charms which belong to rank and fashion, associated with goodness and humanity! May your Royal Highness secure to yourself the exquisite pleasures  
which

which are inseparable from this rare union! May you bless the world by displaying this happy assemblage! Be persuaded then to discontinue the use of a drug, which is the produce of cruelty and barbarity! Let sugar never be brought into your presence! Let it be proscribed your household, till its connection with fraud, robbery, and murder, be entirely broken! Engage on the same side your Royal Consort! He will not be able to resist solicitations directed to so worthy an object, and coming from you. Persuade him to join his example to yours, and from their joint influence the most extensive good effects may be expected. You will remind him, that the laurel of military achievements never appears so graceful as on the brow where humanity shines; that the ardour and bravery of a warrior are most admired, when beheld in him whose breast is open to compassion, and who melts when he listens to the tale of distress.

Her Majesty, so famed for her private and domestic virtues, and her piety;—the King, whom his subjects gladly hail as the father of his people;—by following the example of their amiable daughter-in-law, in discouraging a villainous trade, by rejecting the produce of it, will display their humility, as well as their humanity, and their other good qualities.

The

The influence of your example will then spread itself through the different ranks of the nobility and gentry. Fashion will take the side of humanity. The middling orders of the community, who could stand out against the arguments and the examples of their equals, will yield to those of their superiors, and depressed, afflicted, bleeding humanity will lift up her head in triumph.

It may be reasonably expected, that an example set by a Princess so illustrious will extend its influence beyond the limits of the British empire, pervade other countries, and be followed by princes, nobles, and people. Then will neither Britain, nor any other country, any more send their infernal vessels to the African coast. The shore will no longer be contaminated by a traffic in human blood. The fiends that carried it on, will be compelled to betake themselves to less savage occupations, and be constrained to forego the gratifications they receive from hearing the howlings of the captive. Our coloured brethren will be left to enjoy in peace the blessings of their native soil. The lover will not be torn from his mistress; parents will not be deprived of their children; the conjugal ties will not be untimely broken; rents will not be made in families; the face of the country will no longer be a scene of war, distrust, and dismay; the hand of mischief

chief and oppression will no more be raised. All the dread effects of European avarice and luxury will at once disappear, and the dusky sons and daughters of Africa will be as secure and undisturbed on the banks of the Senegal and Gambia, as are those of Britain nigh the streams of the Thames and the Severn.

The fame of their benefactress, having diffused itself through the civilized world, will at length reach the ears of the negroes. Songs will be composed by them to the honour of the amiable FREDERICA; she will be sung to as the Genius of Good, that chased the demon of cruel and bloody oppression from the African regions. At their weddings, at births, and on every joyful occasion, FREDERICA, the guardian angel of Africa, will be the burden of their favourite songs. The day of her birth will be celebrated as a festival and a jubilee.

By the order of Providence, which we believe to be conducted by the Supreme Ruler with perfect wisdom, it has been the lot of your Royal Highness to be placed in the number of the great ones of the earth. Greater glory and fame will therefore attend the good you do, than that which will accrue to those who first set on  
foot

foot the business which your Royal Highness is, with all possible earnestness, requested to help forwards, by your powers of persuasion, and the influence of your example. The renown you will acquire, if success attend your efforts, and of that there can be little doubt, will extend itself to all the civilized and other parts of the globe.

We, of far more humble condition, who are solicitous of having the honour of acting with you in this noblest of undertakings, also have in view certain rewards. We hope to share in the most solid of those which will fall to the lot of your Royal Highness. We shall taste, in common with your Royal Highness, of the pleasures which the humane and generous heart only feels. Ours also will be the feelings which ever elevate the breast that cherishes extensive philanthropy. We also direct our expectations to that great Being, who notes every good deed and every good intention, who inserts them in a book of remembrance, and who will give to every one according to his deeds. We are assured, that the more we feel, and the more we do in the cause of humanity, the greater will be the lustre of that crown of glory, which, on the great day of account, the Righteous Judge of the whole earth will set upon our heads. We believe that every tear we shed for a brother's distress, be he African or European,



pearl, will form a bright pearl in that heavenly diadem which awaits the brow of the *humane* Christian.

After what has been stated, I judge it will not be very necessary to trouble your Royal Highness with many observations on the cavils, by which the *interested*, and the *sensual*, may attempt to divert you from your good purposes. Such persons are in the habits of saying, "If you abstain from the use of sugar, because it is the produce of cruelty and oppression, why do you not refrain from all other commodities which are connected with similar deviations from justice and humanity?" It may be replied, "Let any be pointed out in procuring which the deviations from justice and humanity are so great." (These, then, as far exceeding in magnitude all others, ought first to be attended to; and, besides, they do at this time engage the public attention.

Let these objectors assist us to remove the evils in question, and when that is done, we shall be very ready to give them a hearing with respect to any others which they may wish to correct; but there is great reason to believe, that their design is to embarrass us. By directing our attention to several objects at once, their aim would seem to be to prevent us from attending with effect to any. Because we cannot do  
all

all that ought to be done at once; they insinuate that we should do nothing; because we cannot, at one and the same time, get rid of all our imperfections, we should not attempt to remove the most gross and ignominious.

If the cultivation of Sugar be the sole cause of our Negro Trade, let us no longer partake of the fruits of that cultivation. If there be any other branch of commerce founded in iniquity, let it be brought forward after the slave trade has been abolished. Let our objectors, if it be their design to have good done, and not artfully to hinder its being done, adopt this conduct.

Should your Royal Highness be told that this measure will prove injurious to commerce, you will call to your recollection the enterprize which distinguishes the people of this country. An English trader will always find out some track in which he will make his stock, his skill, and his industry, turn to account. Besides, it is only proposed to disuse sugar until the slave trade is abolished. If the measure be injurious to commerce, the parties concerned have only to consent to the above-mentioned traffic being put an end to, and the injury is removed.

May

May this measure, the arguments for which are so strong, and the objections to which are so futile, receive the powerful sanction of your Royal Highness's support! May you be determined to act the part for which humanity forcibly and loudly pleads! May you abstain from a commodity which a philosopher, the most accurate in observations of that nature, states as causing the destruction of a number of human beings so great, that their very blood would be sufficient to dye it in grain! Execrable waste of the species caused by the avarice of *Christian* traders! May your Royal Highness be made the means, in the hands of the Beneficent Governor of the universe, of putting a stop to it! May the friends of humanity, in this and in every civilized country, look to you as their patron and their chief! May millions of Africans have reason to bless the day which gave you birth! That you and your Royal Consort may enjoy every happiness which an elevated station and real worth can furnish, is the sincere and unfeigned prayer of him who presents this address!

F I N I S.

